

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FRED AND JANE MARTINI: A
LOVING UNION

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very special friends, Fred and Jane Martini of Hampton Township, Michigan, as they prepare to celebrate fifty years of marriage and a loving commitment to each other, their two children, four grandsons and their great-granddaughter. The Martinis' devotion and dedication to all around them has set a high benchmark to which their family, friends and neighbors might aspire.

From the day they were married on October 6, 1951 at St. John's Church in Pinconning, Michigan, Fred and Jane have helped nurture a community of loving persons by setting a beautiful example for all those whose lives they have touched. Their marriage has been blessed with two remarkable children, Cynthia and James. Both parents worked hard to create a good and supportive family environment. While they never lost sight of that priority, the Martinis recognized that they also had a responsibility beyond their family and they somehow managed to find time to give back to their community in untold ways that will long be remembered.

After serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, Fred began an extensive and venerable career with Consumers Power Company, retiring after 36 years. In his spare time, Fred was active with the Boy Scouts, taught civil defense, volunteered for the United Way and served as an Elder with Immanuel Lutheran Church. Over the years, Jane held numerous political positions in Hampton Township and in Bay County. She was first elected to the Township Board in 1968 and then spent 18 years as Township Clerk. In fact, during her tenure as Clerk, she registered me allowing me to vote for the first time so many years ago. Throughout her life, Jane has volunteered to serve on many boards and committees, including the Bay County Library Board and the Senior Citizens Advisory Board.

Fred and Jane, however, never forgot about each other, despite their active lifestyles, because a strong marriage not only is a covenant with one another, it serves as a declaration of eternal love. As the Gospel according to John teaches, a person who loves others "knows God for God is Love." The everlasting union shared by Fred and Jane serves as a shining example of the power of love and its capacity to bring us all closer to the warmth and grace of our creator.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Fred and Jane for achieving a rarely reached milestone of fifty years of marriage. The fullness of their commitment and the bountifulness of their love strengthen us all and we look to them for many more years of happiness.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
OHIODANCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize OhioDance, Ohio's statewide service organization for dance and movement arts, on their 25th anniversary.

OhioDance has long been dedicated to supporting the diverse and vibrant field of dance in Ohio by providing communication, information, education, cooperation building, and organizational services to the entire state. OhioDance serves a variety of audiences from professional companies and dancers to amateur dancers. They benefit college and university dance departments, dance studios, school and community programs, and dance supporters. OhioDance also provides a quarterly newsletter, dance calendar, and directory/course guide.

The Ohio Dance Festival is to be held this year on October 19–20 and will prove to be an amazing time for all those in attendance. In conjunction with this year's festival, OhioDance will produce statewide showcases and master classes.

Over the past few years, OhioDance has partnered with countless organizations to promote their goal and affect more Ohio citizens. Recently, they have collaborated with the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Arts Council, and K–12 teachers in the development of dance education curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebration on this very special 25th Anniversary of OhioDance. Their admirable mission to spread the art of dance to all Ohio citizens should be commended by all.

MEMORIALIZING FALLEN
FIREFIGHTERS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Madam Speaker, as an original co-sponsor of this legislation, I also rise in support of H.J. Res. 42 sponsored by Congressman CASTLE, which requires each year, the American flags on all Federal office buildings be lowered to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This modest tribute to our nation's fallen heroes is long overdue.

Roughly 1.2 million men and women serve our country as fire and emergency personnel and, on average, 100 firefighters sacrifice their lives each year. This year has been especially troubling for the fire service with 343 firefighters confirmed missing or dead as a result of the tragic events that unfolded on Sep-

tember 11th in New York City. It has also been a troubling year in Upstate New York as well. In my own Congressional district we lost Maine Firefighter Joe Vargason, who was killed by a drunk driver as he directed traffic at a car fire. Firefighter Vargason had honorably served the Maine community for 22 years prior to his death. Just last week, 19 year old Lairdsville Firefighter Bradley Golden perished during a "live-burn" training exercise in Oneida County, New York in Congressman BOEH-LERT's district.

These tragedies remind us all how dangerous the fire fighting profession truly is. Answering 16 million calls a year firefighters young and old, experienced or rookies, are always in harms way. They put their lives on the line every call to ensure our nation's safety.

The many sacrifices firefighters make remind me of the Baker Fireman's Fountain located in Owego, NY. The fountain was given to the Village of Owego and its firefighters in 1914 by Frank M. Baker as a memorial to his son, George Hobart Baker, who was killed in an automobile accident in 1913. Both men had been members and chief engineers of the Owego Fire Department. This fountain has become a symbol of Tioga County. The fountain depicts a firefighter holding a young baby at a fire scene demonstrating the strength, devotion, and unselfish caring that is a part of all firefighters. It is standing testament to the courage and honor of these brave men and women who are willing to pay the ultimate price for us every time they are called to duty.

Much like the Baker Fireman's Fountain, H.J. Res. 42 will also honor the men and women who are firefighters. Lowering the flag to half-staff each year is a fitting tribute to our nation's heroes. We as a nation are forever in their debt.

TRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY
CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ALTON, IL-
LINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Community Christian Church and the Anniversary of its 30 years of service to the community of Alton, Illinois.

The people of the Community Christian Church are truly good Samaritans. They have spent 30 years preaching the word of Christ to Alton and surrounding areas and participating in other good works. They have helped to feed the hungry, clothe the needy, and have sent missionaries around the world bearing the word of God.

To such people as Robert Brunk and his congregation, the good deeds themselves are their own best rewards. Yet, on this special day, I think it is appropriate that they are recognized for their efforts. They are good Christians and good Americans, and remind us all

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